# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

(FOR RELEASE MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1955)

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 25


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

## RICE IMPORTS INTO SIERRA LEONE INCREASE

Though rice production in Sierra Leone has increased substantially in recent years, the 1954 crop was far short of domestic requirements. Rice imports were 4 times as great as the largest previous imports in postwar years.

SIERRA LEONE: Rice imports, averages 1936-50, annual 1951-54

| Year | Imports | Exports, including re-exports | Year | Imports | Exports, including re-exports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (Average) | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| | | | 1951 | 2,428 | 195 |
| 1936-40 ...... | 2,557 | 1,204 | 1952 | - | 670 |
| 1941-45 ...... | 1,795 | 900 | 1953 | 12 | 1,410 |
| 1946-50 ...... | 23 | 88 | 1954 | 10,273 | 115 |

Compiled from official sources.

## ITALIAN FARMERS PROTEST CHEESE IMPORTS

The American Embassy in Rome reports that local meetings of farmers in the Po Valley have been aided by farmers' associations in Rome with adoption of resolutions protesting the importation of cheese. During 1954, importations of cheese rose about 8 percent to 51.5 million pounds, with Denmark providing 23.5 million pounds and neighboring Switzerland 13 million pounds. Exports during 1954 amounted to 37.7 million pounds. The government has insisted that it is necessary to allow liberal cheese imports in order to open European markets for Italy's agricultural products in general.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S. needing the information it contains.

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VENEZUELA REDUCES RICE
ACREAGE; DROUGHT THREATENS CROP

The Venezuelan Development Corporation has announced that in 1955 it will finance only 64,000 acres of rice compared with 135,00 acres in 1954. In addition to this drastic reduction in production credits, the support price for rice will be lowered.

Weather conditions in the early part of the season were generally favorable for planting and germination. However, rains did not continue as long as usual, and the following dry, hot weather adversely affected the crop. Rice yields per acre may be reduced sharply from the high yields of 1954.

COSTA RICA
MAY IMPORT RICE

Costa Rican inventories of rice are running extremely low and it may become necessary to import this basic commodity. Rice in recent years has been produced in sufficient quantities not only to supply domestic requirements, but also to provide an exportable surplus.

A shortage in commodities, including rice, reportedly is attributed to (1) crop losses caused by flood conditions last October, (2) an increase in the official wage schedule for most agricultural workers, and (3) the inability of the National Production Council to meet all requests for crop financing.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
PLANS EXPANDED CORN MOVEMENT

Plans for an extensive transport operation to move corn from producing areas of the Union of South Africa into position for export were recently announced by the South African Railways. The planned transport operation is described as the largest in the country's history. The railways have more freight to haul than can be carried with reasonable despatch; therefore, the emphasis put on moving corn points up the importance attached to the project by the Government.

Plans called for a shuttle service of two trains a day carrying corn to Durban, one from the Transvaal and the other from the Free State. These trains will move 1.1 million bushels per month, in bulk. Another corn train a day is to leave the Western Transvaal for Cape Town, moving about 1 million bushels. From the beginning of July, one train a day is to carry corn from the Free State to Port Elizabeth and another for East London. (Cont'd., next page.)

Each of the trains is to deliver about 350,000 bushels a month. With all five trains in operation, delivery of a total of about 2,9 million bushels a month is planned. If tentative plans materialize for designation of a train to carry corn from the Transvaal to Lourenco Marques, the total movement of corn to tidewater may reach 3.6 million bushels a month.

A substantial corn surplus in the country stems from 3 successive bumper crops. The crop harvested in early 1953 was 124 million bushels; in early 1954 it was 140 million; and the recently harvested crop was tentatively estimated at 130 million. Adding the carry-over of about 46 million bushels at the beginning of the current season and setting aside about 93 million bushels for domestic requirements, an exportable surplus of about 70 million bushels is estimated. Exports from last year's record production amounted to about 32 million bushels.

## INDIA'S PRICE SUPPORT STABILIZES WHEAT PRICES

Wheat prices in India have stabilized at the equivalent of about $1.53 per bushel for average quality white grain, over much of the wheat producing area, as a result of the Government's price-support operations. Those measures were aimed at preventing wheat prices from dropping below the level now reported.

Purchases of wheat by the State Governments of the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Bharat on behalf of the Government of India supported prices in these areas. About $2.5 million have already been earmarked by the Central Government for giving advances to State Governments for such purchases. The Minister for Food and Agriculture for India recently stated that the Central Government was prepared to place an over-all total of as much as $210 million at the disposal of State Governments to support wheat prices.

To date, support operations have covered white wheat only. This fact resulted in a sharp drop in the price of red wheat. Whereas ordinarily there is only about a 5-percent differential between the prices of white and red wheat, the present spread is reported to be about 30 percent in some parts of the country. Concerned with this decline in the price of red wheat, the Government of the United Provinces has asked the Central Government to provide price support for this type of wheat also.

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CANADA REPORTS GRAIN SEEDING PROGRESS

As a result of unfavorable weather conditions, especially in the Prairie Provinces, spring grain seeding is considerably later than usual, and only about 77 percent of the total acreage expected to be sown to spring grains had been seeded by May 31, according to a recent report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Progress has been good since May 31, and seeding was expected to be completed in mid-June. Seeding of the four principal grain crops at the end of May varied from 57 percent completed in the case of barley to 87 percent for wheat and 90 percent for mixed grains, which are grown principally in eastern Provinces.

CANADA: Estimated progress of seeding at May 31, 1955

| Province | Spring wheat | Oats | Barley | Flax-seed | Mixed grains | Total, five grains |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percentage completed | | | | | |
| Prince Edward Island | 68 | 62 | 54 | - | 65 | 63 |
| Nova Scotia | 60 | 73 | 65 | - | 71 | 72 |
| New Brunswick | 79 | 74 | 72 | - | 71 | 74 |
| Quebec | 74 | 83 | 77 | - | 80 | 82 |
| Ontario | 100 | 99 | 99 | 88 | 99 | 99 |
| Manitoba | 90 | 71 | 65 | 44 | 65 | 73 |
| Saskatchewan | 87 | 55 | 57 | 50 | 55 | 77 |
| Alberta | 87 | 78 | 66 | 76 | 70 | 79 |
| British Columbia | 91 | 90 | 85 | 88 | 81 | 89 |
| CANADA | 87 | 74 | 57 | 53 | 90 | 77 |

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Best progress in grain seeding was reported for Ontario where operations were virtually completed. In the important producing Prairie Provinces, where seeding had been repeatedly delayed by excessive moisture and flooding in some areas, estimated progress for the 4 principal grains and flaxseed was estimated at 73 percent for Manitoba, 77 percent for Saskatchewan, and 79 percent for Alberta.

The seeding progress estimates are based on the May 31 survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in cooperation with Provincial Departments. Previously, the survey was made April 30, along with the acreage intentions survey. That date, however, was found to be too early as in some seasons little or no seeding had been done at that time. Condition of winter wheat and rye on May 31 is also reported for the first time, as of that date. The current report shows winter wheat above average at the end of May in the returns of 32 percent of the correspondents; 57 percent reported average condition and 11 percent below average. Winter-kill of fall-sown wheat was estimated at 5 percent of the sown acreage, compared with 4 percent a year earlier. (Cont'd., next page.)

Average rates of spring wheat seeding, as reported by correspondents, varied from 1.4 bushels per acre in Saskatchewan and Alberta to as high as 2 bushels per acre in some minor-producing eastern Provinces. The seeding rate for oats averaged about 2.2 bushels per acre in the Prairie Provinces but was 3.6 bushels per acre in 2 eastern Provinces. For barley, the rate was about 1.6 bushels per acre in the Prairie Provinces and about 2.2 bushels in the east.

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## AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Averages raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification

| | 70's | | 64's | | 60's | | 58's | 56's | 50's |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Super | Average | Super | Average | Super | Average | Good | Good | Good |
| | U.S. Dollars per Pound | | | | | | | | |
| Monthly Averages | | | | | | | | | |
| 1953-54 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sept. | 1.89 | 1.81 | 1.75 | 1.60 | 1.52 | 1.42 | 1.32 | 1.07 | .89 |
| Oct. | 1.90 | 1.80 | 1.73 | 1.60 | 1.49 | 1.42 | 1.35 | 1.19 | .97 |
| Nov. | 1.96 | 1.82 | 1.73 | 1.61 | 1.50 | 1.42 | 1.34 | 1.18 | .97 |
| Dec. | 1.96 | 1.76 | 1.67 | 1.58 | 1.45 | 1.35 | 1.31 | 1.14 | .93 |
| Jan. | 1.95 | 1.74 | 1.63 | 1.54 | 1.41 | 1.32 | 1.26 | 1.08 | .92 |
| Feb. | 1.89 | 1.68 | 1.59 | 1.49 | 1.38 | 1.27 | 1.19 | 1.13 | .89 |
| March | 1.82 | 1.64 | 1.55 | 1.49 | 1.35 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.04 | .88 |
| April | 1.79 | 1.66 | 1.59 | 1.54 | 1.42 | 1.31 | 1.28 | 1.14 | .96 |
| May | 1.82 | 1.69 | 1.62 | 1.58 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.22 | 1.02 |
| June | 1.87 | 1.74 | 1.67 | 1.62 | 1.55 | 1.43 | 1.35 | 1.25 | 1.04 |
| 1954-55 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sept. | 1.63 | 1.56 | 1.48 | 1.40 | 1.39 | 1.29 | 1.26 | 1.18 | .98 |
| Oct. | 1/ 1.62 | 1.53 | 1.45 | 1.36 | 1/ 1.34 | 1.23 | 1.21 | 1.15 | .99 |
| Nov. | 1.57 | 1.44 | 1.35 | 1.28 | 1.22 | 1.16 | 1.09 | 1.00 | .90 |
| Dec. | 1.60 | 1.47 | 1.38 | 1.32 | 1.26 | 1.21 | 1.14 | 1.04 | .90 |
| Jan. | 1.56 | 1.43 | 1.34 | 1.28 | 1.22 | 1.17 | 1.11 | 1.03 | .90 |
| Feb. | 1.58 | 1.47 | 1.37 | 1.32 | 1.25 | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.05 | .93 |
| March | 1.47 | 1.39 | 1.30 | 1.26 | 1.20 | 1.15 | 1.12 | 1.04 | .92 |
| April | 1.44 | 1.37 | 1.31 | 1.31 | 1.21 | 1.17 | 1.15 | 1.07 | .94 |
| May | 1.43 | 1.39 | 1.30 | 1.28 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.13 | 1.04 | .91 |

1/ Quotations nominal

(Table Cont'd., opposite page.)

## PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Issued recently and available free upon request from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

German Market Situation for U.S. Dried Fruits and Nuts. Foreign Ag. Circ. FDF-9-55
The Tobacco Market in Denmark. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-29-55
Cotton Situation in Western Europe. Foreign Ag. Circ. FC-5-55
India Increases Quinine Production. Foreign Ag. Circ. FTEA-3-55

## AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES (Cont'd.)

Wool Prices: Averages raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification

| | 70's | | 64's | | 60's | | 58's | 56's | 50's |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Super | Average | Super | Average | Super | Average | Good | Good | Good |
| | U.S. Dollars per Pound | | | | | | | | |
| Weekly Averages | | | | | | | | | |
| 1954 | | | | | | | | | |
| March 12 | 1.85 | 1.66 | 1.54 | 1.48 | 1.33 | 1.23 | 1.18 | 1.03 | .88 |
| " 19 | 1.80 | 1.64 | 1.55 | 1.49 | 1.36 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.03 | .88 |
| " 26 | 1.78 | 1.62 | 1.57 | 1.51 | 1.38 | 1.26 | 1.22 | 1.06 | .90 |
| April 2 | 1.79 | 1.64 | 1.58 | 1.53 | 1.40 | 1.28 | 1.25 | 1.10 | .91 |
| " 30 | 1.79 | 1.67 | 1.60 | 1.56 | 1.46 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.19 | 1.00 |
| May 7 | 1.81 | 1.67 | 1.61 | 1.57 | 1.47 | 1.36 | 1.33 | 1.21 | 1.02 |
| " 14 | 1.83 | 1.70 | 1.62 | 1.58 | 1.48 | 1.37 | 1.33 | 1.21 | 1.02 |
| " 21 | 1.83 | 1.70 | 1.62 | 1.59 | 1.50 | 1.39 | 1.34 | 1.23 | 1.03 |
| June 4 | 1.87 | 1.74 | 1.67 | 1.62 | 1.55 | 1.44 | 1.34 | 1.23 | 1.03 |
| 1955 | | | | | | | | | |
| March 11 | 1.54 | 1.46 | 1.34 | 1.31 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.16 | 1.06 | .94 |
| " 18 | 1.53 | 1.44 | 1.33 | 1.31 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.17 | 1.08 | .96 |
| " 25 | 1.49 | 1.40 | 1.33 | 1.30 | 1.24 | 1.19 | 1.17 | 1.09 | .96 |
| April 1 | 1.46 | 1.38 | 1.32 | 1.29 | 1.23 | 1.18 | 1.16 | 1.08 | .95 |
| " 22 | 1.43 | 1.36 | 1.30 | 1.27 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.15 | 1.07 | .94 |
| " 29 | 1.44 | 1.36 | 1.30 | 1.27 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.14 | 1.07 | .94 |
| May 6 | 1.44 | 1.39 | 1.30 | 1.29 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.12 | 1.05 | .92 |
| " 13 | 1.44 | 1.39 | 1.31 | 1.29 | 1.20 | 1.16 | 1.13 | 1.05 | .91 |
| " 20 | 1.42 | 1.38 | 1.29 | 1.26 | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.13 | 1.03 | .91 |
| " 27 | 1.43 | 1.38 | 1.29 | 1.26 | 1.19 | 1.15 | 1.12 | 1.02 | .90 |

Source: Wool Statistical Service of the Australian Wool Bureau

AUSTRALIA AUTHORIZED TO SHIP
MORE BEEF TO MARKETS OUTSIDE U.K.

The Minister of Commerce & Agriculture announced on May 27 that approval had been secured from the United Kingdom authorizing Australia to export an additional 13.2 million pounds of beef to markets outside the United Kingdom and its colonies in accordance with the free-quota provisions of the 15-Year Meat Agreement. Thus during the year ending September 30 Australia is authorized to export to non-United Kingdom (and colonies) markets, about 33.2 million pounds of beef and mutton and lamb, according to James H. Boulware, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Canberra.

The Minister stated that approval is the result of discussions between representatives of Australia and the United Kingdom on the meat supply situation in the United Kingdom and its effects upon the Australian beef industry. The London representative of the Australian Meat Board participated in the talks.

The decision means that Australia is now in a position to export about 13.2 million pounds of beef to countries other than the United Kingdom and the colonies during 1954/55. It is the second recent additional release under the free-quota system.

The Australian Meat Board is responsible for the allocation of these quantities of meat to exporters and the trade is now being advised.

These additional approvals did not affect the guaranteed right of access to the United Kingdom market or to the right to deficiency payments if the average market prices fall below the agreed minimum levels provided by the 15-year meat agreement.

The United Kingdom Ministry of Food has also decided, with the concurrence of the Australian Meat Board, to dispose of 13.2 million pounds of old season's stocks of Australian beef on the continent. This beef has been in its hands for some time and has had a depressing effect on the market.

Whether markets can be found for 33.2 million pounds of beef of the qualities available for export from Australia at prices comparable to the United Kingdom guaranteed level remains to be seen. Informed trade sources report that the demand for good quality beef on domestic markets recently has been such that much, if not most, of the higher quality beef has been sold locally and lower qualities have been exported. This is believed to be an important factor in complaints in the United Kingdom on the quality of Australian beef, and may have been a major factor in the decision to market beef in other countries.

## WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION CONTINUES UPWARD TREND IN 1955

The first estimate of world wool production in 1955 is 4,475 million pounds, greasy basis, as compared to the revised estimate of 4,390 million pounds in 1954, according to the most recent information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. These estimates indicate increases for Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, Soviet Union, and some of the Middle East countries as contrasted to no significant change in output for Argentina and Uruguay.

World output in 1954 was equivalent to about 2,535 million pounds, clean basis, while world consumption for 1954 has been estimated at 2,519 million pounds. The 1955 output on a clean basis will likely approximate 2,585 million pounds, an increase of 2 percent over 1954. During the first quarter of 1955, consumption in the principal wool consuming countries increased by an estimated 2 percent above the comparable period of 1954.

The Dominion wool auctions opened last fall with prices about 15 percent below a year earlier. Prices fluctuated with further declines until late November. Since early in December the Dominion prices have shown considerable stability, averaging around 15 percent below a year earlier. Price declines have been greater for the fine wools. New Zealand cross-bred wools have shown remarkable firmness near the level of a year earlier.

Due to the decline in world wool prices, growers in Argentina and Uruguay are again holding considerable quantities of wool. The combined total of stocks in these countries are not much different from a year ago; however, fewer opportunities exist for moving the South American stocks at prices acceptable to the growers.

The most marked declines in output in 1954 occurred in Argentina and the Soviet Union. The Argentine output is expected to show little change in 1955. The Soviet Union's output will be greater in 1955 partly because of gains in fleece weights over 1954 and some increase in sheep numbers. Due to the decline in Argentina's output, the Soviet Union is now the third largest producer of wool.

Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa showed marked increases in output during 1954. These increases, which are expected to continue in 1955, were largely due to the increases in sheep numbers. In addition, both New Zealand and South Africa experienced very favorable weather conditions during 1954. (See tables, pp. 733 and 734.)

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad.

WOOL: Production in specified countries, greasy basis, averages 1936-40, 1946-50, annual 1952 to 1955 1/

| Continent and Country | Averages 1936-40 | Averages 1946-50 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 2/ | 1955 2/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds |
| NORTH AMERICA | | | | | | |
| Canada | 15.6 | 12.4 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 8.5 | 9.0 |
| Mexico | 10.3 | 11.4 | 13.2 | 12.8 | 13.0 | 13.5 |
| United States | | | | | | |
| Shorn | 360.6 | 238.5 | 232.4 | 230.3 | 232.6 | |
| Pulled | 64.7 | 46.5 | 33.6 | 41.0 | 43.4 | |
| Total | 425.3 | 285.0 | 266.0 | 271.0 | 276.0 | 276.0 |
| Estimated Total 3/ 4/ | 450.0 | 310.0 | 290.0 | 295.0 | 300.0 | 300.0 |
| EUROPE | | | | | | |
| Finland | 2.7 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| France | 37.1 | 30.6 | 41.9 | 41.9 | 48.5 | 50.0 |
| Germany, Western | 21.7 | 17.3 | 14.8 | 12.8 | 11.9 | 11.0 |
| Greece | 19.3 | 17.4 | 19.2 | 20.3 | 23.2 | 23.4 |
| Ireland | 17.2 | 13.1 | 15.4 | 16.5 | 17.5 | 18.5 |
| Italy | 30.4 | 30.2 | 35.0 | 33.7 | 33.0 | 31.5 |
| Netherlands | 6.1 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Norway | 5.9 | 6.4 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| Portugal | 16.3 | 18.4 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 22.7 | 22.7 |
| Spain | 80.0 | 85.0 | 93.0 | 94.0 | 95.0 | 95.0 |
| United Kingdom | 110.1 | 81.2 | 102.0 | 105.0 | 107.9 | 108.0 |
| Yugoslavia | 34.7 | 30.0 | 33.0 | 35.0 | 37.5 | 37.0 |
| Total Western Europe | 388.8 | 345.4 | 401.2 | 406.7 | 422.3 | 422.2 |
| Other Europe 5/ | 103.8 | 79.7 | 93.1 | 94.2 | 96.9 | 99.4 |
| Estimated total (Excl. U.S.S.R.) 4/ 6/ 7/ | 490.0 | 425.0 | 495.0 | 505.0 | 515.0 | 515.0 |
| U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 6/ | 310.0 | 310.0 | 400.0 | 400.0 | 390.0 | 410.0 |
| ASIA | | | | | | |
| Iran | 36.3 | 29.3 | 36.6 | 37.5 | 38.6 | 39.0 |
| Iraq | 21.6 | 27.3 | 32.0 | 32.5 | 33.0 | 33.5 |
| Syria | 10.7 | 12.2 | 19.6 | 20.3 | 21.0 | 21.0 |
| Turkey | 67.7 | 70.7 | 77.9 | 81.6 | 79.6 | 82.0 |
| Afghanistan | 15.0 | 16.4 | - | - | - | - |
| China 8/ | 88.0 | 75.0 | - | - | - | - |
| India 9/ | 72.9 | 51.8 | 51.0 | 51.0 | 51.0 | 51.0 |
| Japan | - | - | 4.5 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Pakistan | - | 26.4 | 30.0 | 30.0 | 28.0 | 30.0 |
| Estimated Total 4/ 10/ | 345.0 | 360.0 | 390.0 | 400.0 | 395.0 | 400.0 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOUTH AMERICA | | | | | | |
| Argentina | 411.0 | 449.8 | 407.0 | 400.0 | 365.0 | 365.0 |
| Brazil | 35.5 | 42.7 | 50.7 | 52.5 | 52.0 | 53.0 |
| Chile | 32.6 | 42.3 | 44.1 | 39.7 | 38.6 | 39.0 |
| Falkland Islands | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Peru | 19.4 | 18.8 | 19.8 | 20.1 | 20.3 | 20.0 |
| Uruguay | 126.2 | 162.9 | 189.8 | 202.5 | 198.4 | 200.0 |
| Estimated Total 4/ 11/ | 640.0 | 735.0 | 730.0 | 730.0 | 690.0 | 695.0 |
| AFRICA | | | | | | |
| Algeria | 22.6 | 16.2 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| Egypt | 7.5 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 |
| French Morocco | 35.1 | 27.2 | 36.0 | 31.5 | 36.4 | 36.0 |
| Tunisia | 12.0 | 9.9 | 11.0 | 12.3 | 11.8 | 12.0 |
| Union of South Africa 12/ | 252.3 | 215.9 | 256.8 | 264.6 | 280.0 | 290.0 |
| Estimated Total 4/ 13/ | 335.0 | 280.0 | 345.0 | 350.0 | 370.0 | 380.0 |
| OCEANIA | | | | | | |
| Australia | 1,051.9 | 1,060.0 | 1,281.1 | 1,246.0 | 1,280.0 | 1,315.0 |
| New Zealand | 313.8 | 371.6 | 418.0 | 425.0 | 450.0 | 460.0 |
| Estimated Total 4/ | 1,365.0 | 1,430.0 | 1,700.0 | 1,670.0 | 1,730.0 | 1,775.0 |
| Estimated World Total 4/ | 3,935.0 | 3,850.0 | 4,350.0 | 4,350.0 | 4,390.0 | 4,475.0 |

1/ For summary purposes wool produced mostly in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere is combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 of October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most countries at its greasy equivalent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes estimates for Newfoundland, Netherland West Indies, Guatemala, and El Salvador. 4/ Rounded to fives of millions. 5/ Includes the Iron Curtain Countries, (Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Eastern Germany). 6/ Based on present boundaries. 7/ Includes estimates for countries producing 2 million pounds or less, namely Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Swizerland. 8/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 9/ Includes Pakistan. 10/ Includes estimates for Afghanistan, Cyprus, Palestine, Transjordan, Outer Mongolia, Tibet, Napal, and China. 11/ Includes relatively small production in Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Venezuela. 12/ Excludes karakul wool; includes Union of South Africa, Union Protectorate, and South West Africa. 13/ Includes estimates for Kenya, French West Africa, and Togo.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad, results of office research and other information. Estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to present boundaries except as noted. - June, 1955.

## ITALIAN LEAF EXPORTS LARGE IN 1954

Italian leaf tobacco exports were at a high level in 1954, according to a report from H. K. Ferguson, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Rome. Exports totaled 35.5 million pounds last year, comprised of the following types: Fire-cured, 8.5 million pounds; Burley, 6.4 million; flue-cured, 4.0 million; Maryland, 1.4 million; Oriental, 14.4 million; and other types, 0.8 million pounds.

The Soviet Union, which took a total of 12.9 million pounds last year, was the largest purchaser. Most of the exports to that country consisted of Oriental tobacco, with the balance fire-cured. The second-largest market for Italian-grown leaf last year was France, which purchased 3.5 million pounds. Western Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom each took more than 2.0 million pounds. Exports to the United States, consisting entirely of Oriental leaf, totaled 1.9 million pounds.

Principal destinations, by types of tobacco, were as follows: Fire-cured - Soviet Union, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Egypt; Burley - France, West Germany, and Belgium; flue-cured -- the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and West Germany; Maryland - Switzerland and French Colonies; Oriental -- Soviet Union, United States, and Hungary.

Italy: Exports of Leaf Tobacco -- 1954

| Country of Destination | Type of Tobacco | | | | | | Total 1/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Fire-Cured | Burley | Flue-Cured | Mary-land | Orien-tal | Other | |
| | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds |
| Soviet Union | 2.7 | - | - | - | 10.2 | - | 12.9 |
| France | - | 3.3 | - | .2 | - | - | 3.5 |
| West Germany | .4 | 1.5 | .3 | - | .6 | - | 2.8 |
| Netherlands | 1.3 | .1 | .8 | - | .2 | - | 2.4 |
| United Kingdom | - | - | 2.2 | - | - | - | 2.2 |
| Switzerland | 2/ | .4 | .1 | .6 | .3 | .5 | 2.0 |
| United States | - | - | - | - | 1.9 | - | 1.9 |
| Belgium | 1.0 | .6 | .2 | - | - | - | 1.8 |
| French colonies | .6 | - | .1 | .6 | - | .3 | 1.6 |
| All other 3/ | 2.5 | .5 | .3 | - | 1.2 | 2/ | 4.4 |
| Total | 8.5 | 6.4 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 14.4 | .8 | 35.5 |

1/ Totals may not add, due to rounding. 2/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 3/ Largely Egypt, Sweden, Belgian Congo, East Germany.

Source: Consular information

## PHILIPPINES EXPECTED TO ALLOCATE EXCHANGE FOR U.S. LEAF

It is expected that the Philippine Government will allocate additional dollars soon to purchase United States cigarette leaf. This will allow early action on the President's recent certification to purchase about 7 million pounds of U.S. tobacco during the balance of 1955.

## CANADIAN EXPORTS OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO UP 7 MILLION POUNDS

Exports of Canadian leaf tobacco during the first 3 months of 1955 totaled 23.8 million pounds -- up 41.7 percent from 16.8 million pounds exported during the corresponding period of 1954.

Canada: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco; averages 1935-39 and 1947-51, annual 1953-54, and first quarters, 1954-55

| Country of Destination | 1935-39 average | 1947-51 average | 1953 | 1954 | 1st quarter 1954 | 1st quarter 1955 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds |
| United Kingdom | 15.3 | 17.3 | 23.2 | 25.1 | 15.2 | 21.7 |
| Australia | 1/ | .4 | 1.7 | 2.3 | .8 | 1.5 |
| Trinidad | 1/ | .8 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Jamaica | 1/ | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Netherlands | 1/ | .4 | .3 | .6 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Belgium | 1/ | .9 | 2/ | .1 | 3/ | 3/ |
| West Germany | 1/ | - | - | .5 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Other | 1.2 | 1.9 | .8 | 1.0 | .8 | .6 |
| Total | 16.5 | 22.7 | 28.5 | 32.0 | 16.8 | 23.8 |

1/ If any, included in other. 2/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 3/ Included in other -- not broken down by country of destination.

The United Kingdom continues to be Canada's major export outlet for leaf tobacco. Since prewar, exports to other Commonwealth countries, particularly Australia, and to Western European countries have increased significantly also -- in direct competition with United States leaf. Canadian exports consist mainly of flue-cured leaf. Exports of all types during the first quarter of 1954 totaled 16.8 million pounds in relation to 32.0 million pounds for the year. Based on the percentage shipped out in the first quarter of last year, Canadian exports for the calendar year 1955 may total about 45.0 million pounds. This seems possible of attainment in view of record stocks of flue-cured tobacco as of December 31, 1954, which totaled about 145 million pounds.

U.K. AUTHORIZED $15 MILLION
FOR TOBACCO UNDER P.L. 480

On June 14, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced issuance of a purchase authorization to the United Kingdom of up to $15 million for tobacco under the provisions of Public Law 480. The tobacco to be exported must be from domestically produced stocks, delivered to vessels in United States ports after June 13, 1955, but not later than July 31, 1955.

WEST GERMAN TOBACCO
CONSUMPTION UP 5 PERCENT

According to information contained in Die Tabak-Zeitung (Tobacco Gazette-Mainz) of May 13, the estimated consumption of tobacco products in West Germany during the first quarter of 1955 totaled about 43.8 million pounds -- up 5.0 percent from the 41.7 million pounds consumed during the corresponding quarter of 1954.

West Germany: Consumption of tobacco products, as indicated by tax-paid withdrawals, for the January-March periods, 1954-55 1/

| Product | Jan.-Mar. 1954 | Jan.-Mar. 1955 | Percent change from previous year |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cigarettes (million pieces) | 8,537 | 9,682 | + 13.4 |
| Cigars (million pieces) | 981 | 991 | + 1.0 |
| Fine-cut tobacco (1,000 pounds) | 7,024 | 6,307 | - 10.2 |
| Pipe tobacco (1,000 pounds) | 1,812 | 1,742 | - 4.9 |
| Estimated total (1,000 pounds) | 41,742 | 43,839 | + 5.0 |

1/ Excludes chewing tobacco and snuff.

Consumption of cigarettes totaled 9.7 billion pieces during the first 3 months of 1955, compared with 8.5 billion during the corresponding period of 1954, or a 13.4 percent increase. Cigars increased slightly, whereas fine-cut tobacco, principally for "roll-your-own", and pipe tobacco continued their downward trend evident since 1951.

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WORLD TRADE IN MARKET EGGS

The world trade in market eggs continued to increase during 1954 and is now comparable to prewar years. Denmark and the Netherlands increased their volume of trade over 1953. These 2 countries now, as before World War II, are the world's largest shell egg exporters. The Netherlands exported 170.8 million dozen eggs in 1954 while Denmark exported 149.5 million dozen, compared with United States exports of 48 million dozen.

The United States was a minor exporter before the war but because of expanded markets in Mexico, Venezuela, and the Caribbean countries now ranks third. Those outlets not protected by currency exchange factors will continue to be potential markets during the flush season in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Canada. These 3 countries are steadily increasing their flock numbers.

1954 exports from the Eastern European countries, Ireland, Belgium, and Argentina were considerably below 1938.

Germany has replaced the United Kingdom as the largest importer of market eggs. United States eggs are barred from these 2 markets by currency controls. German imports of 210 million dozen in 1954 were 29 percent above 1953; and were still larger in early 1955 than during the corresponding period in 1954. The United Kingdom imported 119.7 million dozen in 1954, 11 percent below 1953.

(Import table below. See Export table, next page.)

Imports of market eggs by principal importing countries

| Country | 1938 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million dozen | | | | |
| West Germany | 1/ 132.6 | 137.0 | 132.7 | 162.7 | 210.0 |
| United Kingdom | 277.0 | 113.4 | 122.2 | 134.5 | 119.7 |
| Italy | 10.1 | 19.4 | 18.5 | 24.9 | 32.4 |
| Hong Kong | - | 21.2 | 26.1 | 27.1 | 27.9 |
| Mexico | - | 8.6 | 18.0 | 17.8 | 21.0 |
| Venezuela | - | 12.4 | 16.6 | 15.9 | 2/ 18.2 |
| Switzerland | 20.2 | 17.2 | 17.5 | 18.1 | 18.7 |
| France | 16.1 | 12.9 | 20.8 | 20.7 | 17.8 |
| Cuba | - | 5.3 | 8.7 | 7.1 | 7.4 |
| United States | 0.2 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| Austria | 8.0 | 3.9 | 6.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 |
| Spain | - | 4.4 | 4.8 | 4.0 | 3/ 1.6 |
| Greece | 1.9 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 4/ 0.5 |

1/ Includes all Germany in 1938. 2/ January-October, 1954. 3/ January-August, 1954. 4/ January-November, 1954.

Exports of market eggs from principal exporting countries

| Country | 1938 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million dozen | | | | |
| Netherlands | 126.0 | 103.4 | 112.3 | 136.5 | 170.8 |
| Denmark | 129.9 | 120.6 | 126.6 | 136.7 | 149.5 |
| United States | 2.1 | 27.0 | 41.7 | 39.7 | 48.0 |
| China 1/ | 20.6 | 37.0 | 35.0 | 35.5 | 32.4 |
| Poland 1/ | 41.5 | 15.0 | 17.5 | 26.0 | 20.0 |
| Yugoslavia | 18.9 | 0.3 | 4.0 | 7.4 | 19.3 |
| Australia | 2/ 10.1 | 14.4 | 20.3 | 13.1 | 17.5 |
| Other Eastern European countries 1/ | 55.7 | 6.5 | 15.0 | 13.5 | 11.4 |
| Sweden | 7.8 | 12.8 | 12.4 | 9.8 | 10.9 |
| Ireland | 27.3 | 18.3 | 19.1 | 20.1 | 10.2 |
| Canada | 1.8 | 6.6 | 12.0 | 7.4 | 6.8 |
| Belgium | 11.4 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 5.0 | 6.3 |
| Union of South Africa | 2.8 | 3.5 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 3.9 |
| France | 2.6 | 13.8 | 5.5 | 2.2 | 2.8 |
| Turkey | 4.2 | 9.8 | 12.1 | 10.0 | 3/ 2.4 |
| Norway | 2.3 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 1.4 |

1/ Exports for 1951-1954 for Communist China, Poland and Eastern European countries are estimated from returns of importing countries. 2/ Year ending June 30, 1939. 3/ January-August, 1954.

(See text, and Import table, preceding page.)

## CUBAN MILK PRODUCTION UP IN 1954

Milk production in Cuba amounted to 1.6 billion pounds in 1954, an increase of approximately 15 percent over the previous year, according to a report from the American Embassy in Havana. The production came from just over 1 million cows which were milked during the year.

Because of the increase in production and the utilization of additional milk in butter manufacture, Cuba drastically cut its imports of butter. However, in November Cuba was hit by a drought which cut milk production as much as 25 percent in some of the milk producing areas and imports of butter and other dairy products are now being resumed.

The dry spell has been broken only intermittently and is now in its seventh month. Milk production during the first half of 1955 is considerably under the 1954 level and unless the drought breaks Cuban milk production for the current year will be one of the lowest in recent years.

COTTON SITUATION
IN THAILAND

Thailand's cotton production from the 1954-55 crop is currently estimated at 39,000 bales (500 pounds gross) the same as the 1953-54 crop, according to Carl C. Campbell, Marketing Specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who has just returned from a recent visit to Bangkok. Efforts of the Government to expand cotton production over the past several years have not been very successful.

Customs records show that Thailand's cotton imports in the calendar year 1954 totaled 7,300 bales, 66 percent of which came from Brazil. The bulk of the remaining imports came from Pakistan, Egypt, and South Africa. To date, Thai imports have consisted entirely of the cheaper, low grade cottons. Because of the fact that the spinning industry is now operating on a more stable basis, import requirements in future years probably will be somewhat higher than current levels.

Thailand's textile industry presently consists of four spinning mills with a combined spindleage of about 38,000 spindles. About 40 percent are operating on a three-shift basis, and 60 percent on a one-shift basis. There are approximately 900 power looms in the country and an undetermined number of handlooms. The Government is encouraging expansion of the textile industry through its import and investment policies and it is expected that an additional 25,000 to 30,000 spindles will be installed within the next two years. There are no official production figures available but it is estimated that Thai mills now produce between 8 and 10 million pounds of yarn annually. Cloth production from both power looms and handlooms is estimated to total about 40 million yards.

In 1954 imports of grey goods amounted to about 25 million yards, whereas imports of finished goods totaled about 130 million yards. This level of imports is reported to be about 10 percent above normal, but in view of the current level of inventories, the goods appear to have moved readily into consumer channels. Since January 1955, the Government has freely authorized imports of textiles from all sources except Japan. Imports from Japan have been restricted because of Thailand's unfavorable balance of trade with that country. Thailand's exports to Japan have increased in recent months, and it may be possible to relax restrictions on imports from Japan in the near future.

Since Thai mills generally spin very low count yarns, mills tend to seek the lowest priced cotton available. The country is presently experiencing a very high level of economic activity. Many people think that there will probably be a larger effective demand for cotton textiles this year than can be imported under Thailand's present import program. Under these circumstances it would appear that some special program might be arranged to make cotton textiles available to Thailand to supply any lag in supplies to meet total effective demand.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; crop years 1952-53 and 1953-54; August-April 1953-54 and 1954-55

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

| Country of destination | Crop year beginning August 1 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Averages | | 1952 | 1953 | August-April | |
| | 1935-39 | 1945-49 | | | 1953-54 | 1954-55 |
| | 1,000 bales | 1,000 bales | 1,000 bales | 1,000 bales | 1,000 bales | 1,000 bales |
| Austria | 0 | 1/ 36 | 47 | 42 | 32 | 14 |
| Belgium-Luxembourg | 169 | 131 | 73 | 68 | 56 | 65 |
| Czechoslovakia | 65 | 57 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Denmark | 33 | 14 | 34 | 23 | 18 | 19 |
| Finland | 35 | 21 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| France | 662 | 575 | 507 | 475 | 359 | 355 |
| Germany | 511 | 340 | 241 | 389 | 315 | 326 |
| Italy | 442 | 489 | 272 | 269 | 180 | 194 |
| Netherlands | 107 | 131 | 79 | 104 | 82 | 90 |
| Norway | 17 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 11 | 11 |
| Poland and Danzig | 180 | 69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Portugal | 36 | 2/ | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2/ |
| Spain | 108 | 69 | 77 | 167 | 94 | 102 |
| Sweden | 115 | 12 | 36 | 43 | 37 | 48 |
| Switzerland | 11 | 26 | 28 | 24 | 22 | 36 |
| United Kingdom | 1,346 | 488 | 359 | 422 | 290 | 385 |
| Yugoslavia | 17 | 47 | 86 | 40 | 38 | 86 |
| Other Europe | 31 | 3/ 33 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| Total Europe | 3,885 | 2,545 | 1,861 | 2,100 | 1,540 | 1,744 |
| Australia | 9 | 7 | 11 | 45 | 29 | 41 |
| Canada | 301 | 275 | 284 | 237 | 175 | 253 |
| Chile | 9 | 20 | 1 | 27 | 18 | 10 |
| China | 117 | 401 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Colombia | 20 | 24 | 35 | 7 | 4 | 1 |
| Cuba | 11 | 16 | 12 | 20 | 13 | 18 |
| French Indochina | 22 | 6 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 0 |
| Formosa | 4/ | 1 | 107 | 110 | 85 | 88 |
| India | 52 | 86 | 45 | 161 | 120 | 59 |
| Indonesia | 2/ | 5 | 17 | 22 | 19 | 23 |
| Israel | 4/ | 5 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 14 |
| Japan | 1,142 | 585 | 691 | 1,005 | 738 | 584 |
| Korea, Republic of | 4/ | 5/ 48 | 41 | 96 | 75 | 114 |
| Philippines, Rep. of | 2 | 4 | 16 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Other countries | 19 | 6/ 37 | 28 | 7/ 48 | 32 | 36 |
| Total | 5,589 | 4,065 | 3,181 | 3,914 | 2,877 | 2,990 |

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries". 5/ 3-year average. 6/ Includes Hong Kong 35. 7/ Includes Ethiopia 11, French Morocco 9, and Hong Kong 9.

Compiled in FAS Cotton Division from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES COTTON
EXPORTS DECLINING

Exports of cotton from the United States in April amounted to only 249,000 bales of 500 pounds (239,000 running bales). The August-April 1954-55 total of 2,990,000 bales (2,876,000 running bales) is 113,000 bales more than that for a similar period a year ago, compared with a lead of 302,000 bales at the end of March.

The decrease in export movement is attributed to continued uncertainty on the part of foreign buyers regarding probable price trends next season. They have been buying only minimum requirements in recent months. The bulk of such purchases since early in the year have consisted of foreign growths because of sharp price declines abroad.

Actual movement of some of the cotton already authorized for sale under various export programs is being delayed several months for the reasons mentioned above. Exports from the United States during the entire 1954-55 season are now expected to total somewhere around 3.5 million running bales. Foreign mill consumption is still running at a high level. If this continues there may be some increase in export sales next season. However, the size of U.S. exports will also depend upon the quantity of cotton produced abroad and upon the removal of the uncertainty with respect to price trends next season.--By Charles H. Barber.
(See table, opposite page.)

ARGENTIN'S 1954-55 COTTON
CROP BELOW LAST YEAR'S

Argentina's 1954-55 cotton crop (harvested March-June 1955) is currently estimated at approximately 500,000 bales (500 pounds gross), 20 percent less than the 1953-54 crop of 635,000 bales, according to Robert C. Tetro, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. The current figure represents a reduction from earlier estimates, resulting from unfavorable weather during December-February which caused considerable damage to the crop. Harvested acreage is estimated at 1,350,000 approximately the same as last year.

Cotton sonsumption in Argentina for the August-July 1953-54 year was estimated at 425,000 bales. Favorable prospects for a 5- to 10-percent increase in mill consumption may increase the 1954-55 offtake to 450,000 bales. Most of the cotton used is from domestic production, but about 10,000 to 15,000 bales of extra-long staple are imported annually from Peru.

Argentina's cotton exports during the March-February 1954-55 year amounted to 125,000 bales as compared with 283,000 during the previous year. Principal destinations of Argentine cotton in the 1954-55 year, with 1953-54 exports in parentheses were: the Netherlands 32,000 bales (35,000); the United Kingdom 29,000 (55,000); Belgium 25,000 (39,000); Japan 14,000 (109,000); Hong Kong 9,000 (3,000); France 6,000 (2,000); Western Germany 4,000 (13,000); and Italy 3,000 (1,000).

## OUTLOOK FAVORABLE FOR COTTON CONSUMPTION IN YUGOSLAVIA

Prospects for increased cotton imports by Yugoslavia in calendar year 1955 give promise of lifting mill restrictions caused by curtailment of cotton imports in 1954, according to Roy O. Westley, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Belgrade. Imports in calendar year 1955 are expected to reach 120,000 bales (500 pounds gross) as compared with 100,000 in 1954, and 129,000 in 1953. Approximately 54,000 bales are expected to be imported from the United States under the Public Law 480 program, and imports from other countries will supplement this amount. Turkey and Egypt are the other principal suppliers of Yugoslavia's cotton, with smaller quantities from Greece and Syria.

Yugoslavia produces only a small percentage of its cotton requirements. Acreage for the 1955 crop is estimated at 30,000, as compared with 29,000 for 1954 and 18,000 for 1953. Production for 1955 is estimated at 8,000 bales, the same as 1954, but considerably higher than the 4,000 bales produced in 1953.

Cotton consumption for the August-July 1954-55 marketing year is expected to reach 130,000 bales as compared with 125,000 for 1953-54. Stocks on hand August 1, 1954, were estimated at 12,000 bales.

## BELGIAN CONGO PLANS NO EXPANSION OF COTTON ACREAGE

No further expansion of cotton acreage in the Belgian Congo during the next few years is foreseen by the Director of Agriculture of that country, according to R. L. Yost, American Consulate General, Leopoldville. Increased cotton production will be sought, rather, by improvements in insect-control and fertilizer-use programs, as well as the introduction of better adapted varieties of cotton, and training of workers to use only the best cultivation practices.

Cotton acreage for the 1954-55 crop was estimated at 900,000, the same area as during the last 3 years. Cotton production in 1954-55 was estimated at 240,000 bales (500 pounds gross) the same as in 1953-54, but slightly higher than the 1952-53 production of 208,000 bales.

## PARAGUAY TO STANDARDIZE ON DELTA PINE 15 COTTON

The Ministry of Agriculture of Paraguay has announced that 1955 cotton planting (September-November) will be done with native Delta Pine 15 seed, because of its high germination, high yield, and long staple, according to S. Paul Miller, Third Secretary of the American Embassy, Asuncion. Unfavorable weather and other causes have held down cotton production in the last 2 years, so that while 1954-55 acreage of 173,000 represented an increase of 33 percent over 1952-53 acreage, production of 62,000 bales in 1954-55 represented an increase of only 17 percent over the 1952-53 crop of 53,000 bales.

## SUDAN COTTON EXPORTS BELOW LAST YEAR

Cotton exports from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan during the first 8 months (August-March) of the 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 143,000 bales (500 pounds gross), considerably below exports of 242,000 bales in the corresponding period of 1953-54. The principal decline was in exports to the United Kingdom, which amounted to 63,000 bales in the current period as compared with 145,000 a year earlier. Other principal destinations of Sudan cotton in August-March of this year, with corresponding figures for 1953-54 in parentheses were: India 25,000 (32,000); Italy 22,000 (22,000); Western Germany 12,000 (17,000); and France 11,000 (11,000). Exports for the entire 1953-54 year were 413,000 bales as compared with 267,000 in 1952-53.

Latest estimates of the 1954-55 cotton crop are for production of 409,000 bales, slightly above production of 400,000 bales in 1953-54, and 386,000 bales in 1952-53. Steady increases have been shown in the cotton acreage in the Sudan during the last few years, with acreage amounting to 685,000 for the 1954-55 crop, 652,000 for 1953-54, and 620,000 for 1952-53.

## ALEXANDRIA COTTON FUTURES MARKET TO REOPEN

The Alexandria Cotton Futures Market, Egypt, which has been closed since November 23, 1952, will reopen in September 1955 for dealings in futures contracts starting in December. During the transition period, the Egyptian Cotton Commission will continue to purchase all cotton offered until the end of August at prices fixed for the present season's crop. Further details will be announced later.

## PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS DOWN IN MAY

Philippine exports of both copra and coconut oil in May decreased from the preceding month but were higher than in May of 1954, according to Agricultural Attache H. V. Geib, American Embassy, Manila. Copra exports totaled 54,509 long tons, a decrease of 2 percent from the previous month and 2 percent less than May 1954. Cumulative shipments during January-May 1955 amounted to 283,838 tons or 11 percent more than the 256,680 tons exported in the comparable period of 1954.

The breakdown of the May copra exports by country of destination is as follows: United States -- 23,499 (Atlantic - 2,968, Gulf - 700, Pacific - 19,831); Denmark -- 3,000; Germany -- 2,000; Italy -- 2,000; the Netherlands -- 13,300; Sweden -- 1,100; Europe, unspecified -- 4,500; Lebanon -- 600; and Colombia -- 4,510 tons.

May exports of coconut oil amounted to 4,852 tons compared with 6,005 tons in April and 6,042 in May 1954. The January-May aggregate was 25,959 tons against 23,379 tons in 1954. The entire quantity of oil shipped in May went to the United States (Atlantic). (Cont'd., next page.)

On a copra equivalent basis, exports of copra and coconut oil January through May of this year totaled 325,043 tons, or 11 percent more than the 293,790 tons exported in the same months of 1954.

The copra export price in mid-June was $157.50 per short ton, c.i.f. Pacific. Local buying prices in Manila were 24.50 to 27.50 pesos per 100 kilograms ($124.47 to $139.71) per long ton.

## GREECE ANNOUNCES FURTHER RELAXATION OF OLIVE OIL EXPORT CONTROLS

The Greek Government in the recommendation of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture and the Panhellenic Association of Exporters has authorized exports of blended olive oil of not more than 2.5 degrees of acidity packed in lithographed containers of up to 5 kilograms (11 pounds), according to the American Embassy, Athens. This action is in line with the Government's policy to facilitate exports of olive oil to the greatest possible extent, and in particular shipments to Cuba which is reported to have expressed interest in purchasing Greek olive oil in lithographed tins having an acidity of 2.5 to 3.0 degrees.

Under the provisions of Ministerial Decision No. 54418 dated December 11, 1954, exports of refined, blended, and virgin oils of less than 1 degree acidity, packed in steel drums or lithographed containers, are exempt from the payment of the earlier export tax of 4 drachmas (13 U. S. cents) per dollar. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 10, 1955.)

Authority for such exports of blended olive oil has been granted by amendment of paragraph 2 of Decision No. 54418 as follows:

"The f.o.b. value in foreign exchange of exports of refined or blended or virgin olive oil of less than 1 degree acidity, packed in steel drums or lithographed containers, shall be exempt from the payment of any export tax. Similarly, the f.o.b. value in foreign exchange of exports of blended olive oil of up to 2.5 degrees acidity, packed in lithographed containers of up to 5 kilograms, shall be exempt from the payment of any export tax."

The above amendment shall become effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

## SUEZ CANAL NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC IN OILSEEDS, VEGETABLE OILS UP IN FIRST QUARTER

The northbound movement of oilseeds and vegetable oils through the Suez Canal during January-March 1955 totaled 616,000 and 154,000 short tons, respectively, as compared with 584,000 and 86,000 tons in the first quarter of 1954, according to information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Shipments northward of soybeans and peanuts, presumed to be largely Chinese, were substantially larger than in the corresponding 3-month period of 1954 but were partially offset by a marked decline in "other" oilseeds. Copra movements were the same as the year before, but traffic in vegetable oils was up almost 80 percent from January-March 1954.

SUEZ CANAL: Northbound movement of oilseeds and vegetable oils, January-March 1955 with comparisons

(1,000 short tons gross weight 1/)

| Commodity | Average 1933-37 | 1953 | 1954 2/ | January-March 1954 2/ | January-March 1955 2/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oilseeds: | | | | | |
| Soybeans | 1,237 | 353 | 352 | 145 | 194 |
| Copra | 786 | 660 | 844 | 201 | 201 |
| Peanuts | 999 | 229 | 250 | 94 | 118 |
| Cottonseed | 146 | 197 | 153 | 30 | 36 |
| Flaxseed | 227 | 55 | 31 | 15 | 8 |
| Castor beans | 3/ | 86 | 53 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Palm kernels | 3/ | 67 | 62 | 3/ | 3/ |
| Other | 267 | 264 | 201 | 99 | 59 |
| Total oilseeds | 3,662 | 1,911 | 1,946 | 584 | 616 |
| Vegetable oils: | | | | | |
| Soybean oil | - | 33 | 6 | - | - |
| Coconut oil | - | 119 | 83 | - | - |
| Peanut oil | - | 43 | 24 | - | - |
| Cottonseed oil | - | 26 | 19 | - | - |
| Castor oil | - | 31 | 23 | - | - |
| Palm oil | - | 180 | 170 | - | - |
| Tung oil | - | 29 | 25 | - | - |
| Other | | 58 | 21 | - | - |
| Total vegetable oils | 4/ 309 | 519 | 371 | 5/ 86 | 5/ 154 |

1/ Source data in 1,000 metric tons. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Included in other oilseeds. 4/ Prewar breakdown not available. 5/ Breakdown by month not available.

Source: Compiled from Le Canal de Suez Bulletin, Paris, France.

While the quantity of oilseeds passing northward through the Canal in calendar 1954 was moderately above the previous year, it was but slightly more than half the 1933-37 prewar volume. This is largely the result of sharply curtailed shipments of Chinese soybeans and Indian peanuts in postwar years. Postwar traffic in vegetable oils, however, has been substantially above the prewar average.

WEST GERMANY'S FAT
REQUIREMENTS INCREASING

Total requirements of edible fats and oils in West Germany for 1955 are forecast at 1.40 million short tons, pure fat basis, or about 1.5 percent more than the 1.38 million tons utilized in 1954, reports John J. Haggerty, Agricultural Attache, and Richard A.O. Schwartz, Assistant Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Bonn. If the original plans for building up Federal fat stocks, including those for West Berlin, materialize (1955 target: 22,000 tons of lard and 44,000 tons of margarine raw materials), an additional 13,000 tons of lard, raw weight, and approximately 33,000 tons of raw oils, or seed equivalent, would be required.

The only fats and oils commodities, disregarding butter, of which increased domestic production will be reflected in decreased sales possibilities to West Germany during 1955 and 1956, are lard and fatback, items supplied principally by the United States. Depending on prices, the outlook for sales of United States industrial fats remains favorable, especially since all such major items, unlike seeds and oils for food, are already included in the existing dollar liberalization list.

During calendar year 1954 West German dependence on imports of fats, oils, and oilseeds was further expanded. Approximately 57 percent of its edible fats and oils (54 percent in 1953) and 95 percent of its industrial fats (52 percent in 1953) came from foreign sources. The total net tonnage increased from 1.4 million tons in 1953 to 1.5 million tons in 1954. The increase in the volume of imports occurred in oilseeds, vegetable oils for industrial use, and marine fats and oils, other than whale oil. The major decreases were in lard and fatbacks. Fatty acids were again the leading export item with total shipments in 1954 of 53,200 tons.

The United States' share of the West German market remained at about one-fifth, with imports continuing to be restricted by the Government's policies to (a) concerve dollars through purchasing from soft-currency debtors wherever possible, (b) transit purchases involving switch premiums, and (c) emphasis on imports of oilseeds rather than oils. Principal United States commodities imported in 1954 were soybeans--227,700 tons, cottonseed oil--23,700 tons, lard--20,300 tons, fatbacks--9,400 tons, tallow and other animal fats--69,300 tons, and fish oils--37,700 tons. With the exception of the animal fats, much of these quantities came to West Germany via third countries.

Domestic production of edible fats in 1954 of 598,500 tons, pure fat basis, differed only slightly from the 1953 postwar high. Higher butter production of 306,500 tons, fat content, and a moderate increase in slaughter fats to 253,300 tons were offset by a sharp drop in oilseeds with output being only 7,300 tons pure fat equivalent. In addition, only the 1954 oilseed crop was available for crushing, while in 1953 almost 2-years' crops were delivered to the oil mills. Herring oil output of 31,400 tons was only slightly below the previous year.

WEST GERMANY: Foreign trade in oilseeds, fats and oils, 1954 with comparison

(1,000 short tons)

| Commodities | 1953 | | 1954 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Imports | Exports | Imports | Exports |
| Oilseeds | 794.6 | 2.3 | 881.8 | 1.9 |
| Vegetable oils | 1/ 339.0 | 2/ 12.1 | 1/ 397.6 | 2/ 23.1 |
| Fatty acids, glycerine | 1/ 7.8 | 2/ 43.3 | 1/ 11.2 | 2/ 56.3 |
| Hardened fats, oils and margarine | 5.3 | 9.0 | 2.4 | 2/ 8.5 |
| Animal fats and oils | 161.7 | 2.0 | 1/ 139.4 | 4.7 |
| Marine fats and oils | 224.3 | 6.8 | 255.5 | 8.4 |

1/ Includes small quantity shown for processing and re-export.
2/ Includes small quantity shown as re-exported after processing.

Source: American Embassy, Bonn.

Production of margarine, shortening, and table oil in 1954 amounted to 683,100, 61,800, and 129,300 tons, respectively, product weight. Compared with 1953 data, margarine production was up only 3 percent (against 12 percent increase of 1953 over 1952), and shortening remained almost stable. Output of table oil, however, experienced a 43 percent production and sales increase, primarily replacing lard and low-grade margarine as a cooking and frying fat. Total production of all 3 commodities exceeded the 1953 outturn by 64,800 tons, or 8 percent.

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## LATE NEWS

Exports of cirtus from the Union of South Africa are expected to be about 6.8 million boxes, compared with 6.4 million boxes last season. All of the increase will be oranges. Orange exports were 5.9 million boxes last season.

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Demand for beans is strong in Nicaragua, with price advances of 50 percent in 2 weeks due to late arrival of spring rains and 4 to 6 weeks delayed planting of the 1955 crop. The National Development Institute has been directed to arrange for immediate importation of beans for resale to public at cost. Several thousand bags of U.S. small red beans have already been sold to Nicaragua and possibly El Salvador. Population of Nicaragua is 1.1 million and El Salvador 2.4 million.